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Dear Praying Friends in Europe,

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace." (Deuteronomy 6:24-26)

Aaron and his sons are instructed how to bless the people of Israel. God's blessings are imparted through priestly people. In the Old Testament, Aaron and his descendants alone possessed the privilege of the priesthood. In the New Testament, all who are born of the Holy Spirit have the position of priests. The Holy Spirit confers the commission and dignity of priestly service (Revelation 1:6). In this vocation, intercessors may bring requests before God and bless the people of Europe.

Blessings for life

According to the creation account in the Bible, God originally created man as an immortal being. After the loss of his own immortality, Satan, through his rebellion against God's authority, did everything he could to bring death upon man. He is still working intensively on this today. By legalising abortion and promoting assisted suicide, many European countries also indirectly support the promotion of death. In these areas, death is put forward as a possible solution that brings great advantages for those affected.

The reaction of many Christians is resignation or condemnation of those who want to promote these measures in politics and society. From the priestly position, there is another strong alternative: to advocate for the spread of life in prayer.



In the people of Israel, children were seen as a blessing from God. God's blessing today is that the young generation in Europe is given a new view of parenthood as a gift and that living conditions are promoted that make forming a family possible.

Old people in the Bible were shown respect and love despite illness and disability. God's blessing is an improvement in the possibilities of care for the old and sick and a new appreciation of old age in Europe.

Depression is on the rise also in the younger generation in Europe and robs them of the joy of life. Many Christians in Europe are also increasingly hopeless in the face of the current crises. God's blessing is that he fills his children with new joy in life. Jesus has given us this wonderful promise: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10). God's blessing is based on the fact that circumstances which are hostile to life diminish and life can unfold anew when trusting in Jesus, in all areas of society.

The portrayal of violence and death on television, streaming, newspapers and books occupies a large space and already causes a fascination in very young people. Depictions of violence in news programmes are based on the fact that terrorism, wars and catastrophes are a part of reality that must be reported. However, some portrayals are a concession to the sensationalism of the viewers. There is a danger that children and young people will infer that violent behaviour is normal and adopt it. God's blessing is that through the media, life-promoting reports are increasing, in which, for example, non-violent solutions to conflicts are shown.

Prayer points

- Pray for a new development of comprehensive childfriendliness and family support in all areas of society in European countries.
- Pray for a new appreciation of old people in Europe and a positive interaction between generations to end all competitiveness.
- Pray for an increasing presentation of issues in media that promote joy of life and confidence without suppressing reality.

Overseas development aid

Recent OECD statistics show that many European nations are spending money from their overseas development budget at home on the costs of housing refugees and migrants.

The figures, which show EU donors as being the recipients of their own aid, do not come as a surprise since more than 8 million Ukrainian refugees have sought shelter in the EU since Russia's invasion, and the OECD rules allow in-country refugee costs to be classified as development aid.

The UK report that a third of the aid budget was spent at home – mainly on hotels for refugees – an increase of 487% since 2020. That is more than the UK spent on bilateral aid in Africa and Asia combined, and the pattern is replicated across much of the EU.

Additional Prayer Points:-

- Pray that the recent leak of highly sensitive documents in the US will not cause more deaths in Ukraine or a breakdown of cooperation between Ukraine's allies.
- 2. With the development and increased use of Artificial Intelligence, pray for good regulations to be agreed in the EU over what limitations should be put in place.

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